NUMB. CCCCLVI

The SPECTATOR.

De quo libelli in celeberrimis locis proponuntur
Huic ne perire quidem tacite conceditur. Tull.

Wedneſday, Auguſt 13. 1712.

OTWAY, in his Tragedy of *Venice preſerv'd*, has deſcribed the Miſery of a Man, whoſe Effects are in the Hands of the Law, with great Spirit. The Bitterneſs of being the Scorn and Laughter of baſe Minds, the Anguiſh of being inſulted by Men harden'd beyond the Senſe of Shame or Pity, and the Injury of a Man's Fortune being waſted, under Pretence of Juſtice, are excellently aggravated in the following Speech of *Pierre* to *Jaffeir*.

I paſs'd this very Moment by thy Doors,
And found them guarded by a Troop of Villains,
The Sons of publick Rapine, were deſtroying.
They told me by the Sentence of the Law,
They had Commiſſion to ſeize all thy Fortune:
Nay more, Priuli's *cruel Hand had ſign'd it.*
Here ſtood a Ruffian with a horrid Face,
Lording it o'er a Pile of maſſy Plate,
Tumbled into a Heap for publick Sale.
There was another making villanous Jeſts
At thy Undoing: He had ta'en Poſſeſſion
Of all thy antient moſt domeſtick Ornaments;
Rich Hangings intermix'd and wrought with Gold;
The very Bed, which on thy Wedding-Night
Receiv'd thee to the Arms of Belvidera,
The Scene of all thy Joys, was violated
By the coarſe Hands of filthy Dungeon Villains,
And thrown amongſt the common Lumber.

Nothing indeed can be more unhappy than the Condition of Bankrupcy. The Calamity which happens to us by ill Fortune, or by the Injury of others, has in it ſome Conſolation; but what ariſes from our own Misbehaviour or Error, is the State of the moſt exquiſite Sorrow. When a Man conſiders not only an ample Fortune, but even the very Neceſſaries of Life, his Pretence to Food it ſelf, at the Mercy of his Creditors, he cannot but look upon himſelf in the State of the Dead, with his Caſe thus much worſe, that the laſt Office is perform'd by his Adverſaries, inſtead of his Friends. From this Hour the cruel World does not only take Poſſeſſion of his whole Fortune, but even of every thing elſe, which had no Relation to it. All his indifferent Actions have new Interpretations put upon them; and thoſe whom he has favour'd in his former Life, diſcharge themſelves of their Obligations to him, by joyning in the Reproaches of his Enemies. It is almoſt incredible that it ſhould be ſo; but it is too often ſeen that there is a Pride mix'd with the Impatience of the Creditor, and there are who would rather recover their own by the Downfal of a proſperous Man, than be diſcharged to the common Satisfaction of themſelves and their Creditors. The wretched Man, who was lately Maſter of Abundance, is now under the Direction of others; and the Wiſdom, Oeconomy, good Senſe and Skill in humane Life before, by reaſon of his preſent Misfortune, are of no Uſe to him in the Diſpoſition of any thing. The Incapacity of an Infant or a Lunatick, is deſign'd for his Proviſion and Accommodation; but that of a Bankrupt, without any Mitigation in reſpect of the Accidents by which it arrived, is calculated for his utter Ruin, except there be a Remainder ample enough after the Diſcharge of his Creditors, to bear alſo the Expence of rewarding thoſe by whoſe Means the Effect of all his Labours was tranferred from him. This Man is to look on and ſee others giving Directions upon what Terms and Conditions his Goods are to be purchaſed, and all this uſually done not with an Air of Truſtees to diſpoſe of his Effects, but Deſtroyers to devide and tear them to Pieces.

There is ſomething ſacred in Miſery to great and good Minds; for this Reaſon all wiſe Law-givers have been extremely tender how they let looſe even the Man who has Right on his Side, to act with any Mixture of Reſentment againſt the Defendant. Virtuous and modeſt Men, though they be uſed with ſome Artifice, and have it in their Power to avenge themſelves, are ſlow in the Application of that Power, and are ever conſtrained to go into rigorous Meaſures. They are careful to demonſtrate themſelves not only Perſons injur'd, but alſo that to bear it longer would be a Means to make the Offender injure others, before they proceed. Such Men clap their Hands upon their Hearts, and conſider what it is to have at their Mercy the Life of a Citizen. Such would have it to ſay to their own Souls, if poſſible, That they were merciful when they could have deſtroy'd, rather than when it was in their Power to have ſpared a Man, they deſtroy'd. This is a Due to the common Calamity of Humane Life, due in

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ſome meaſure to our very Enemies. They who ſcruple doing the leaſt Injury, are cautious of exacting the utmoſt Juſtice.

Let any one who is converſant in the Variety of Humane Life reflect upon it, and he will find the Man who wants Mercy has a Taſte of no Enjoyment of any Kind. There is a natural Diſreliſh of every thing which is good in his very Nature, and he is born an Enemy to the World. He is ever extremely partial to himſelf in all his Actions, and has no Senſe of Iniquity but from the Puniſhment which ſhall attend it. The Law of the Land is his Goſpel, and all his Caſes of Conſcience are determined by his Attorney. Such Men know not what it is to gladden the Heart of a miſerable Man, that Riches are the Inſtruments of ſerving the Purpoſes of Heaven or Hell, according to the Diſpoſition of the Poſſeſſor. The Wealthy can torment or gratify all who are in their Power, and chuſe to do one or other as they are affected with Love or Hatred to Mankind. As for ſuch who are inſenſible of the Concerns of others, but merely as they affect themſelves, theſe Men are to be valued only for their Mortality, and as we hope better Things from their Heirs. I could not but read with great Delight a Letter from an eminent Citizen, who has fail'd, to one who was intimate with him in his better Fortune, and able by his Countenance to retrieve his loſt Condition.

SIR,

'IT is in vain to multiply Words and make A-'pologies for what is never to be defended by 'the beſt Advocate in the World, the Guilt of 'being Unfortunate. All that a Man in my Con-'dition can do or ſay, will be received with Pre-'judice by the Generality of Mankind, but I hope 'not with you: You have been a great Inſtrument 'in helping me to get what I have loſt, and I 'know (for that Reaſon as well as Kindneſs to me) 'you cannot but be in Pain to ſee me undone. 'To ſhew you I am not a Man incapable of bear-'ing Calamity, I will, though a poor Man, lay a-'ſide the Diſtinction between us, and talk with 'the Frankneſs we did when we were nearer to an 'Equality: As all I do will be received with Pre-'judice, all you do will be looked upon with Par-'tiality. What I deſire of you, is, that you, 'who are courted by all, would ſmile upon me 'who am ſhunned by all. Let that Grace and Fa-'vour which your Fortune throws upon you, be 'turned to make up the Coldneſs and Indifference 'that is uſed towards me. All good and generous 'Men will have an Eye of Kindneſs for me for 'my own Sake, and the reſt of the World will re-'gard me for yours. There is an happy Contagi-'on in Riches, as well as a deſtructive one in Pover-'ty; the Rich can make rich without parting with 'any of their Store, and the Converſation of the 'Poor make Men poor, though they borrow no-'thing of them, How this is to be accounted for 'I know not; but Mens Exiſtimation follows us 'according to the Company we keep. If you are 'what you were to me, you can go a great Way 'towards my Recovery; if you are not, my good 'Fortune, if ever it returns, will return by ſlower 'Approaches.

I am, SIR,

Your affectionate Friend, and humble Servant.

This was anſwered with a Condeſcenſion that did not, by long impertinent Profeſſions of Kindneſs, inſult his Diſtreſs, but was as follows.

Dear Tom,

"I am very glad to hear that you have Heart "enough to begin the World a ſecond "Time. I aſſure you, I do not think your nu-"merous Family at all diminiſhed (in the Gifts "of Nature for which I have ever ſo much ad-"mired them) by what has ſo lately happened to "you. I ſhall not only countenance your Af-"fairs with my Appearance for you, but ſhall "accommodate you with a conſiderable Sum at "common Intereſt for three Years. You know I "could make more of it; but I have ſo great a "Love for you, that I can wave Opportunities of 'Gain to help you: For I do not care whether "they ſay of me after I am dead, that I had an 'Hundred or Fifty thouſand Pounds more than I 'wanted when I was living.

Your obliged humble Servant.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, on Friday next, being the 15th of Auguſt, will be preſented the laſt reviv'd Comedy call'd, The London Cuckolds. Ramble by Mr. Mills, Townly Mr. Husband, Doodle Mr. Johnſon, Wifeacre Mr. Bullock, Dashwell Mr. Bowen, Loveday Mr Bullock jun. Arabella Mrs. Bradſhaw, Peggy Miſs Willis: With the laſt new Morrice Dance by Mr. Price and others.

THE famous Water-Theatre of the late Ingenious Mr. Winſtanly, will continue to be ſhewn for 6 Days every Evening at 5 a Clock. There is the greateſt Curioſities in Water-works, the like was never perform'd by any, and this preſent Night will be added a Garland of Wheat playing of Water in a curious Manner, and ſeveral other new things ſuitable to the Seaſon, and Bacchus ſqueezing the purple Juice out of the Grapes. There is alſo the artificial Barrel, that entertains the Spectators with 7 Sorts of Liquors, both hot and cold. There will be ſhewn the Sea-Gods and Goddeſſes, Nymphs, Mermaids, and Satyrs, playing of Water, and Fire mingling with the Water; and two flying Boys with a flaming Torch, playing of Water out of the burning Flame. It is at the lower End of Pickadilly near Hide-Park, and is known by the Wind-mill on the Top of it. When this is expir'd, his fam'd Houſe at Hadleberry in Eſſex will be opened, and ſhewn in greater Perfection than ever; and both are ſhewn for the Benefit of his Widow, and in her Poſſeſſion.

On Wedneſday the 3d of September 1712. will be expos'd to Sale at the Marine Coffee-houſe in Burchin Lane, Corn-hill, London, the ſeveral Goods following, being part of the Goods taken in the South-Seas by the Duke and Dutcheſs, private Ships of War belonging to Briſtol, and their Prize the Bachelor, viz. Muſk, Pepper, White and Brown Callicoes of ſeveral Sorts, Dimities, Diapers, Guzzaes, Humhums, Sanno's, Long-Cloth, Tanjebs, Coffaes, and other Muſlins: And at the ſame Sale will be likewiſe ſold the remaining Part of the Europe and other Goods brought home on Board the ſaid Ships, conſiſting of ſeveral Sorts of Goods, viz. Sifters and other Threads, wrought Incles, Thread-Lace of divers Sorts, Sewing-ſilk, and other Haberdaſhery-Wares, Pewter, Steel, Iron, and ſeveral Drugs, &c. of which particular Alotments will be timely diſpers'd, and affix'd on the Royal Exchange. Samuel Proctor, Broker.

WILLIAM TAZWELL, whoſe experienced Succeſs is undeniable, undertakes to accompliſh Gentlemen or other Perſons of either Sex above the Age of 14 Years, in the compleat knowledge of the Latin Tongue, and make them capable of rendring Latin into Engliſh, and Engliſh into Latin, (by their Attendance only an Hour at a time 3 Days in a Week) in 3 Months time from his firſt beginning to teach them, tho' they never learnt the Language before: And that by an eaſie practical Method, entirely new, founded upon undeniable Reaſon and Experience, and ſo wholly free from the tedious Forms of Schools, as not to require much Study or Pains, or be in the leaſt burthenſome to the Memory, but is pleaſant as well as profitable, and does not tire the Perſon's Patience in Learning, or break the Thoughts from, or hinder any Buſineſs. He is to be agreed with next the Blue Anchor and Crown in Prince's-Street near Stocks-Market, the lower-end of the Street, between the Hours of 2 and 6 in the Afternoon, his Buſineſs requiring Attendance Abroad in a Forenoon.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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